

Abstract

The present invention includes a method of analyzing one or more molecular components in a mixture of components. In the method, a mixture of molecular components, i.e., an analyte mixture, is separated on a capillary liquid chromatography column. The component-containing eluate from the column is deposited as a series of discrete, defined-volume microdrops, along a region of an adsorbent collection layer. During the chromatographic separation, the column eluate may also be monitored to detect the presence of separated components in the eluate. The one or more components deposited in the collection layer are then analyzed by selected analytical techniques. In related aspect, the invention includes a method of collecting one or more molecular components derived from a mixture of components, a blotter apparatus useful in the above method, and a system for analyzing one or more molecular components in a mixture of components.